

From: Janet Leih
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I have never understood why the government was going after Microsoft in the first place. Because I have been in computer programming for and operations for 45 years, it seems idiot to me. It was the only stupid thing Janet Reno did while attorney general (I wish I could say I had only done one stupid thing in my life). Before Microsoft wrote it's Windows system and MS DOS, IBM was basically the only show in town. There were a few other computer manufacturers, but IBM had the lion's share of the market.

The way Microsoft wrote the Windows system, they let any company wrote software that runs under Windows, and may have been responsible for the greatest economic surge in our history. What did Apple do? Everything that runs on an Apple Computer is propriatory. Nobody but Apple can write programs for their system. Thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of small companies owe their existance to Microsoft's decision to allow anyone run their software under Windows. If Bill Gate gets wealthy by being inclusive rather than exclusive, that just proves that democracy works to everyone's benefit.

Before Windows, computers were huge, expensive, and were only owned by large businesses and wealthy people. After Windows, computers became small, inexpensive and everyone from millionaires to school kids own them.

Microsoft has "bundled" many programs with its system previously. I have "notepad", "wordpad", "paintbrush" and "games" and a "sound recorder" to mention a few "accessories" bundled with my system. Internet Explorer was just another accessory that Microsoft was giving with its system to enhance the product for the consumer. The fact that it was being given free makes it hard for me to understand why the government is saying that this is bad for the consumer.

I think it was bad for Netscape. Maybe it was bad for some other businesses. But the consumer certainly wasn't in any danger of being scammed because they were being given something free. That is frankly a

bunch of crap.

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